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SIPDIS

IO/UNP FOR ANDREW MORRISON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/21/2023

TAGS: PGOV PREL UNGA IS PA LE SY FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH TO ABSTAIN ON ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS

**REF: STATE 123081** 

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Young, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche November 20 to Jay Dharmadhikari, who handles the Middle East portfolio in the MFA's IO-equivalent. Dharmadhikari said France shared the goal of reducing the number of biased anti-Israel resolutions, agreeing that such resolutions were redundant and unhelpful to the peace process. He noted that France, which currently holds the EU presidency, must remain in lockstep with the EU consensus, which is to once again abstain on most of the resolutions in question. He noted that the French had worked with both the Israeli and the Palestinian missions in New York to try to reduce the number of Middle East resolutions, and believed they had succeeded in laying the groundwork for a smaller number of resolutions next year and the year after. Dharmadhikari noted that France shares the U.S. concern about the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Division for Palestinian Rights within the UN Secretariat, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

STAPLETON